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NEWSLETTER FOR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS: MAY 2021

Dear all,

Welcome to the following companies who have recently agreed to become a business supporter of the AIPP:

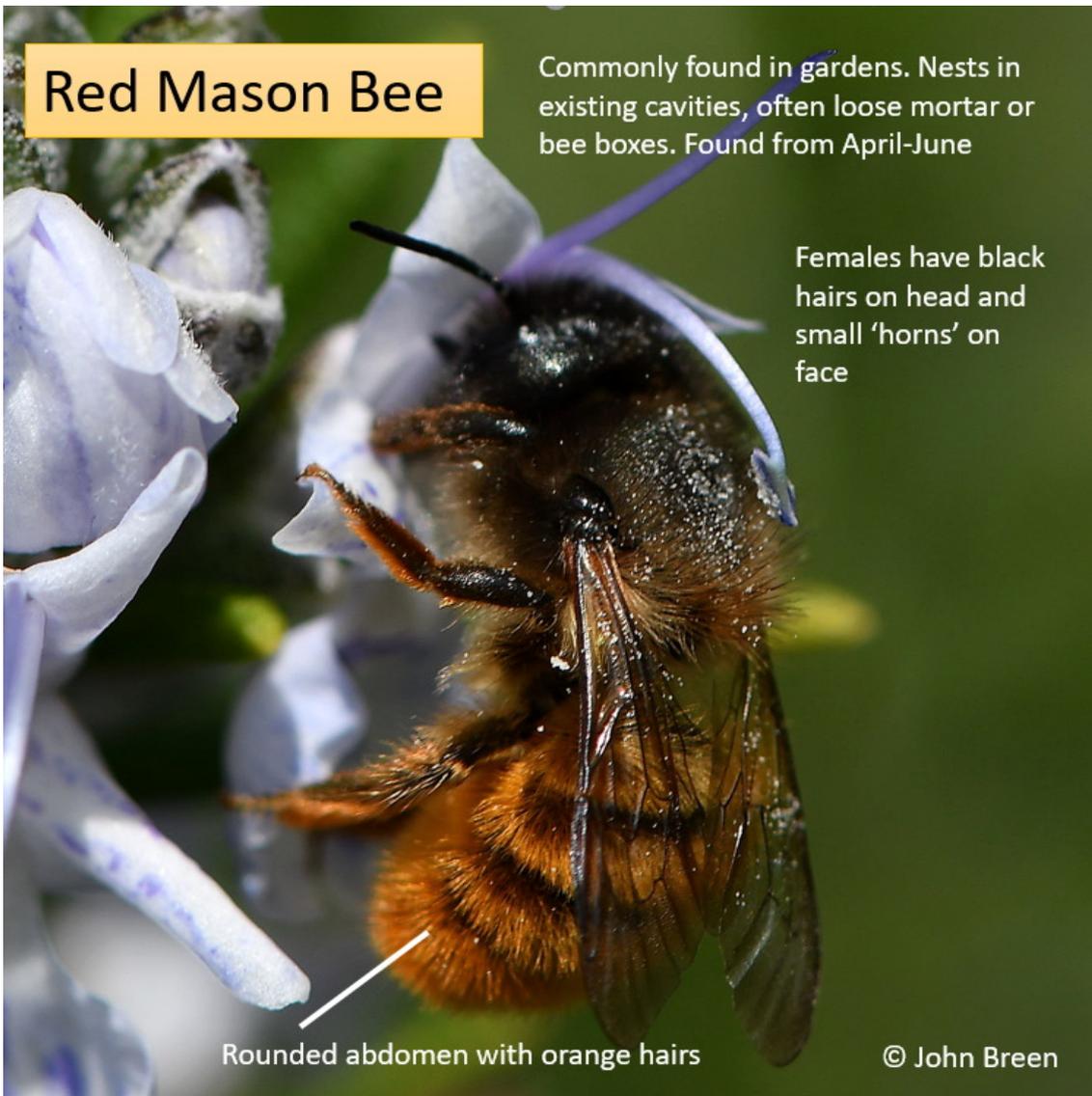
Brodericks Handmade, CAI, Garrett Advancing Motion, Mitchell McDermott, Woodco Renewable Energy Ltd, Woodco Biosciences Ltd, MSD Carlow, Hyphen, Stay YHA Dingle Ltd, Green Belt Ltd, Nurse A Tree Ltd, Print Solutions, Centrepoint Vegetation services Ltd, BioBees.ie, Seekings Flower Farm, The Flowerfield.

Thanks to all of you for your support.

Dr Úna FitzPatrick

1. To spot this month: Keep an eye out for the Red Mason Bee

This is another of our more distinctive solitary bees. It has a rounded abdomen with orange hairs. This species is commonly found in gardens and will nest in existing cavities – usually loose masonry or bee boxes. It's reckoned that just one of these can do the pollination work of over a hundred honeybees!



2. To do this month: No Mow May

If you've cut your grass after allowing Dandelions to flower and provide vital food, now is the time to let it get slightly longer again as it'll allow important plants like Clover to grow. You don't have to let things go wild but reducing mowing, even in small areas, will have a very positive impact on our pollinators (and it's free!)

Reduced mowing provides free superfoods for pollinators:



3. Launch of new industry specific pollinator guidelines

We were delighted to work with Host in Ireland and with Wind Energy Ireland to develop industry specific pollinator guidelines. Both were launched in April 2021. Huge thanks to both partners who worked with the AIPP to identify evidence-based and realistic actions their industries can take to help.

Wind Farms: <https://pollinators.ie/sitespecificguidelines/wind-farms/>

DCs for Bees: <https://www.hostinireland.com/pollinator-plan>

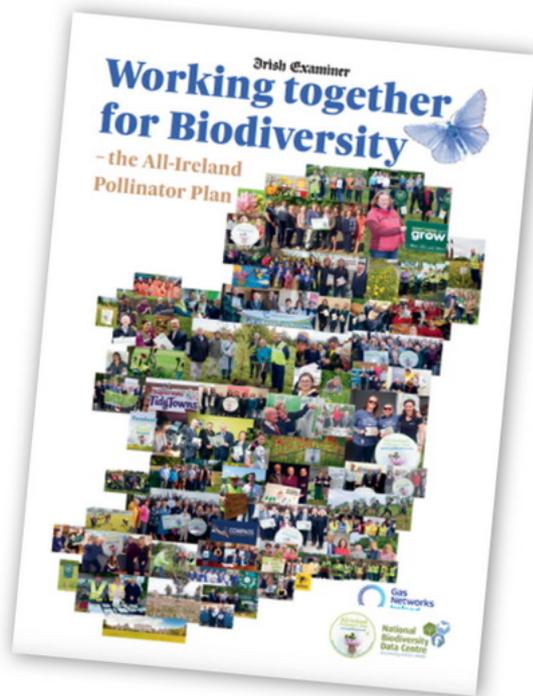


4. World Bee Day; 20th May – free booklet in the Irish Examiner

The Irish Examiner will have an A5 booklet on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and how you can help. Don't forget to pick up your copy on 20th May. It's a brilliant chance to get a free hard copy of our resources! Many thanks to the Irish Examiner for their support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The link below will be updated to include AIPP activities around World Bee Day 2021

<https://pollinators.ie/media/world-bee-day-2021/>



5. World Bee Day; 20th May – new TG4 documentary: Plean Bee

Plean Bee: the radical plan reversing the decline of bees and pollinators across Ireland.

We were delighted to work with Deaglán Ó Mocháin who has made an amazing documentary on pollinators in Ireland, and how people across all sectors have come together to help under the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The documentary includes stunning footage of Irish insects. We express our huge thanks to Deaglán and TG4 and encourage you all to watch it on the evening of the 20th May.

Plean Bee TG4 20ú Bealtaine/May 9.30pm. Deaglán Ó Mocháin

<https://dearcanmedia.com/>



6. Pots for pollinators

By planting up a 'pot for pollinators' for your business, you will provide much-needed food for our pollinating insects. This flyer might be particularly useful for those in the hospitality industry. Galway County Council, in partnership with a number of Tidy Towns groups in county Galway and the AIPP, have launched this new information leaflet.

<https://pollinators.ie/plant-a-pot-for-pollinators/>

Pots for Pollinators

Our pollinating insects are in decline. One-third of our 98 wild bee species are at risk of extinction. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan aims to reverse those declines by helping to encourage more pollinator-friendly flowers in our landscapes.

You don't need a garden to help our struggling pollinators. By planting up a 'pot for pollinators' for your patio or balcony (or a window box), with pollen-rich flowers, you will provide much-needed food for our pollinating insects.

What you will need:

- Large container, approx. 50cm in diameter**
You can buy a pot, or you might already have something you can recycle. Just remember to drill some drainage holes in the bottom of your pot to prevent it getting waterlogged.
- Multi-purpose, peat-free compost**
It's always best to choose a peat-free soil. (Peat bogs are an important habitat, including for many of our pollinators.)
- Pollen & nectar-rich plants**
For example, Nepeta, Soliva, Agastache, Purple Lisians, Sedum Autumn Joy, Single-flowered Dahlia. These six plants were chosen because they grow well together in containers and can be sourced easily in garden centres. You can find details for other pollinator-friendly flowers, shrubs and trees at www.pollinators.ie
- Watering can**
Flowers in pots will dry out quicker and need more watering than those in a flowerbed. If you don't have a watering can, you can recycle an empty plastic bottle – just punch some holes in the plastic lid.

Step by step:

- Place your container in a sunny spot (placing it where you want it to sit will save you lifting a heavy pot after planting). Put compost in your pot until it is two-thirds full.
- Gently remove your plants from their original pots and place in your container, with the tallest at the back.
- Fill in around the rootballs with compost and press down gently to a few centimetres below the top of your container.
- Water the container well and top up with more compost if necessary.
- Look after your pot for pollinators!
 - Ensure it remains moist but not waterlogged. When watering, always aim for the soil and not the plants. It's best to water in the early morning or evening.
 - Deadhead blooms to keep the plants flowering for as long as possible.
 - After flowering is finished, allow leaves to die down naturally, so they can provide shelter for insects during the winter months.
- Enjoy your flowers and watching all the different pollinators they will attract. Know that you are helping our biodiversity.

Why not try out other ideas for pots for pollinators, with these pollinator-friendly varieties:

Pollinator-friendly Herbs:	Pollinator-friendly Bulbs:
THYME OREGANO SAGE ROSEMARY CHIVES	CROCUS MUSCARI
<p>Pollinator-friendly Annuals: You will be able to enjoy all of the listed perennials, herbs or bulbs year after year, but if you only have a small pot, you might also like to plant some smaller-growing pollinator-friendly annuals, such as <i>Bidens</i> or <i>Bacopa</i>.</p>	<p>To learn more about pollinators and how to help them thrive, visit www.pollinators.ie</p>

7. Blog

We have just released a new blog on the excellent work being carried out by Tom Butler and Ballincollig Tidy Towns. It's an inspiring example of how entire areas can become truly pollinator friendly by creating bee-stops and refuges through the community. Some of the planting has been sponsored by local businesses.

<https://pollinators.ie/blog/>

1. Poulavone Roundabout	A pollinator haven. Every plant is pollinator friendly. No spraying. Less cutting of grass.
2. Glencower Court	Flowers, pollinator-friendly planting, less frequent grass cutting. No spraying.
3. The Link Road	Managed flower meadow.
4. Ft Sexton Park	Transition zone and pollinator-friendly planting.
5. Killumney Road	Less mowing, lots of Heathers in this area, and visible signs of animal tracks.
6. Killumney Road	Flower area and reduced mowing.
7. Station Road	Pollinator-friendly planted areas.
8. Colaise Cholim	Wildflower meadow.
9. Main Street	14 wooden pollinator-friendly planters.
10. Sunningdale	Pollinator-friendly area. Natural stone wall.
11. Clourne Mews	Pollinator-friendly bed, less frequent mowing.
12. Westcliffe Flowers Bed	An exceptionally large, raised flower bed with over 3000 pollinator-friendly plants.
13. Scoil Banaí Ballincollig Community School	Pollinator-friendly planting in grounds of both schools.
14. An Caslaon Raised Bed	A community pollinator-friendly flower bed.
15. Coolree Flower Bed	Pollinator-friendly bed installed by local business and maintained by local residents.
16. Coolree Meadows	In this estate, spraying has been stopped. At the entrance to each section of the estate, sections of the grass areas have been replaced with pollinator-friendly plants.
17. Coolree	Large hedge with grass area underneath with <i>Bidens</i> , cut less frequently.
18. Regional Park	Pollinator Haven! Large meadow, uncut and pollinator-friendly planting throughout. 131 acres. An amazing area.
19. Westcourt	Pollinator-friendly planted areas and no spraying.
20. Claisín	Raised bed with pollinator-friendly planting and across the road, less frequent mowing in Páirc Cúil Bua.

8. Pledge your garden for Pollinators

This initiative launched at the end of March 2021. Already, 783 people have pledged

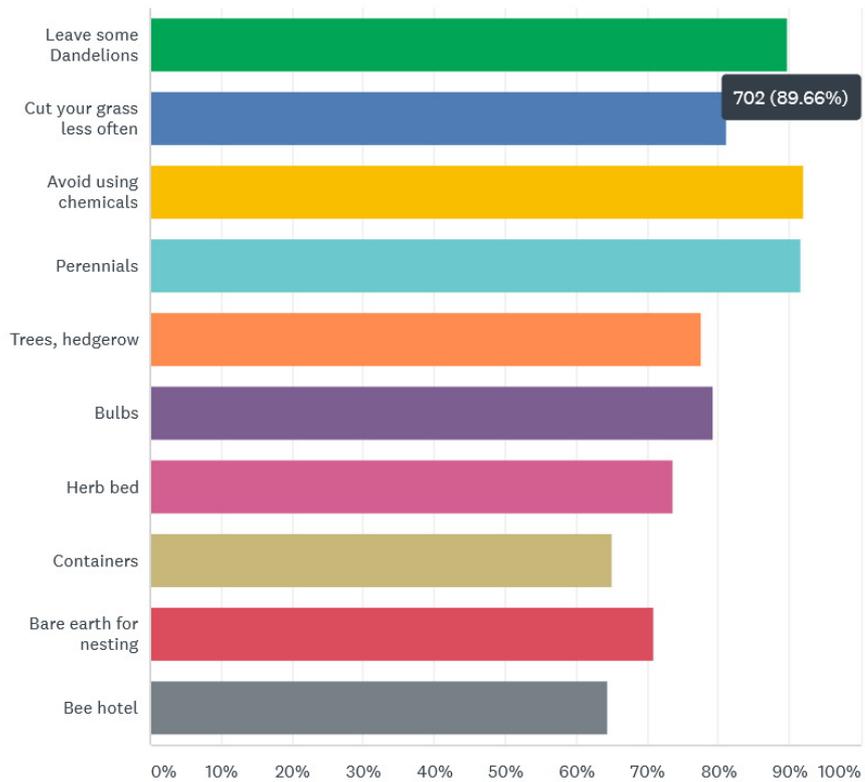
to make their garden pollinator friendly. Almost 90% of all who responded agreed to leave some Dandelions! Maybe you can pledge your own garden, or encourage your employees to do so.

More details: <https://pollinators.ie/gardens>

Take the pledge: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6NLCWS6>

Please tick the actions you pledge to take, or have already taken:

Answered: 783 Skipped: 1



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